



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## The Real Heroes

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The longer I live and the more I see the confusion and corruption in this world, I find great comfort in what the wise man said in **Proverbs 10:7, “The memory of the righteous will be a blessing.”** How true! I can’t tell you how many times I have been blessed and encouraged by hearing and thinking about the righteous deeds of so many who have been such a blessing often times in such silent ways. Oh how we have real heroes in the kingdom (both ancient and modern), who are worthy of our remembrance; worthy of our respect.

**Heroes...everyone has them.** They change over time; they improve as we better ourselves; they come in all shapes and sizes, but make no mistake about it, we have our heroes.

And, **who we make our hero will largely be determined by what we value.** You see, because I’m a sports enthusiast, my heroes when I was a kid were those athletes that were the best of the best. I remember those days on our driveway shooting jump shots from the corner and pretending I was Larry Bird. It seems only a short time ago that I slipped on my high tops hoping these would be the ones that would make me jump like Michael Jordan. My life as a kid was centered around sports and so my heroes were the ones I thought were the best of the best. I wanted to be like them. And, to be quite honest, **they were my heroes because they had what I wanted.** I wanted to excel as they had excelled. I wanted the talent they had and the ability to do what they could do better than most others. I dreamed of a day when I would take their place and have people depending on me, looking to me to “come through in the clutch.”

But, as I stated earlier, our heroes change! **When life changes and more importantly you change, your heroes change.** Your heroes change because **who** and **what** you value changes. While I still am a sports enthusiast, my life does not revolve around basketball. While I have an appreciation for those athletes that have a gift few possess, that’s not the talent I treasure. Yes, I have heroes, but they’ve changed. I’ve changed.

**Who are my heroes? Who do I look up to?** My heroes are those who say “yes” to what is right, when most follow the path of least resistance. It’s the people who keep their promise, even when it hurts and is hard. It’s the humble who have time for the little people, and who notice and value the day of small things. My heroes are those who refuse fame and fortune in order to put their family and their God ahead of themselves. They’re not controlled by “the praise of men” or corrupted by success that’s measured by a secular standard. Clearly, they’ve invested their time in who and what is eternal and are content to leave future results and rewards to He who alone is righteous. And those who face adversity in faith; who praise God even in the storm, these for sure are my heroes!

I’ve seen them lately; I know them well. I preach to many of them on a weekly basis. They refuse to quit; refuse to complain; refuse to blame others. They keep loving, living and learning, knowing that God sees and takes notice, and will do the right thing at just the right time.

If you stop and think about it, **we have some heroic people among God’s people, both in this country and others abroad.** Men and women (young and old) whose faith can be followed, and whose life should be remembered. So, when you think nobody is looking; nobody is learning; nobody is empowered and encouraged by your silent example and steadfast devotion to duty, remember...**God doesn’t just use the preacher to preach or a shepherd to lead.** He uses your faithfulness and fruitfulness to strengthen and sustain others. He uses your generosity and hospitality to teach and train the next generation.

Now, I know, and you know, that all people have feet of clay. The best of people with the best of intentions will fall short at times. But, let's not kid ourselves. We are living in a world today where villains are portrayed as victims, and the real heroes are reviled and even subjected to hostility. Truly, it's an upside down world! But, God said such would be the case. And it's nothing new when we find ourselves surrounded by people who say that evil is good and good is evil; that dark is light and light is dark; that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter (Isa.5:20-21). The worldly wise and the outright ungodly of our day will always be confused and willfully wrong when it comes to who and what is to be deemed heroic! So, let's not allow such deception and degradation to rob us of the great value and blessing of remembering and respecting the real heroes (both ancient and modern). Oh, how the memory of the righteous is a blessing! modern). Oh, how the memory of the righteous is a blessing! **Focus Magazine**

## Pictures of Jesus

David Eldridge

"We wish to see Jesus" (John 12:21). Have you ever seen a picture of Jesus? You have probably seen some representation that had come from the mind of men. The reality is that no one today knows what Jesus looked like while He lived in the flesh. Nevertheless, if you read the Bible, you will see the many ways Jesus is pictured throughout the word of God. Some latch on to one of these images to the exclusion of the others. Let us consider some of the pictures used to portray Jesus that we might have a more "complete picture" of our Lord.

He Is Pictured As **The Great Shepherd of the Sheep**: The Messianic prophet Isaiah said that Jesus would, "Feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young" (Isaiah 40:11). Jesus spoke of Himself as a Shepherd in John 10:9-15, noting that, as the Shepherd, He knows His sheep, guides them, feeds them, and would lay down His life for them. Jesus is truly the "Chief Shepherd" of His sheep (1 Peter 5:4). See Jesus as the great shepherd of the sheep!

He Is Pictured As **The Lamb of God**: Though Jesus is the Shepherd of the sheep, He is also pictured as the Lamb of God. John, in the Revelation, recorded these words, "For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters" (Revelation 7:17). As a prophet of God, John the baptist saw Jesus in this way: "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world'" (John 1:29). Jesus is the Lamb of God whose blood was shed that our sins might be taken away. See Jesus as the precious lamb of God!

He Is Pictured As **The King of Kings**: The angel told Mary the child she would bear, "Will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David" (Luke 1:32). Jesus Himself attested to this fact when Pilate asked if He was "a king." Jesus responded, "You say rightly that I am a King" (John 18:37). Jesus has been given "all authority...in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). Therefore, "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow" (Philippians 2:10). Jesus is the "King of kings" (1 Timothy 6:15). See Jesus as the King of kings and Lord of lords!

He Is Pictured As **The Righteous Judge**: Paul wrote of Jesus as "the righteous Judge" (2 Timothy 4:8). Jesus will one day execute Judgment as the Father has committed all Judgment of Him (John 5:22). He will judge using the standard of His word (John 12:48). No one will escape this Judgment, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 9:27). See Jesus as the righteous Judge to whom we must give account!

He Is Pictured As **The Friend of Mankind**: Jesus identified Himself as a friend by stating, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:13). The evidence of this friend found in Jesus is seen in His sacrifice. Have you shown yourself friendly to the greatest friend you could ever know? Jesus tells you the way to do so. He said, "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you" (John 15:14). See Jesus as the greatest friend mankind has ever known! Seeing Jesus, what will you do? May you listen to His voice, find salvation through His sacrifice, submit to Him as your King, prepare for His righteous Judgment, and be His friend as you obey Him! ~via **Northside Bulletin**; Jonesboro, Arkansas.